

Add new claims 36 to 53 as follows:

---36. Isolated viral interleukin-6 (v-IL-6) obtained by recombinant expression of the DNA of human herpes virus type 8 ("HHV-8") in an isolated cell.

37. An isolated polypeptide obtained by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 in an isolated cell, and which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

38. An isolated polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

39. A fragment of v-IL-6 that binds an interleukin-6 ("IL-6") receptor and comprises the amino acid sequence (residues 87-105 of SEQ ID NO:2) GFNETSCLKKLADGFFEFE.

40. A fragment as claimed in claim 39, which consists of the amino acid sequence GFNETSCLKKLADGFFEFE.

41. A fragment as claimed in claim 39, which binds to a human IL-6 receptor.

42. A fragment obtained from the human viral interleukin-6 (v-IL-6) of claim 36 that binds to the IL-6 receptor and which can competitively inhibit the biological activity of IL-6 in a suitable assay system wherein the fragment binds to the receptor.

43. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the sequence SEQ ID NO:1 and that encodes v-IL-6.

Sub 892
44. An isolated nucleic acid as described in claim 43, consisting of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

45. An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and obtained by recombinant expression of a DNA as described in claim 43 in an isolated cell.

Sub 893
46. An isolated nucleic acid molecule, hybridizing under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 44, encoding functional v-IL-6, wherein the nucleic acid encodes functional v-IL-6.

47. A test kit for the detection of v-IL-6 DNA or RNA, comprising a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 as claimed in claim 43.

48. A composition comprising as an active ingredient the polypeptide as claimed in claim 37 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

49. A composition comprising as an active ingredient the nucleic acid as claimed in claim 43 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Sub F1
Sub 894
50. A cell culture growth medium, comprising v-IL-6 as claimed in claim 45.

51. A fragment of a polypeptide that is obtainable by recombinant expression of the DNA of HHV-8 in an isolated cell and which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

52. A method of culturing cells in a medium using v-IL-6, comprising the step of adding v-IL-6 to the medium.